

Dear Residents,

It is hard to believe that another summer is in the books. Time really does fly at the Park District between May and July.

Shout Out!! - In early Spring we started to recruit and hire staff for the summer. This process started off slow, but we were able to be fully staffed the entire summer for all our seasonal positions including, park maintenance, lifeguards, concession workers, marina attendants, camp counselors, fitness attendants, and recreation class instructors. Our full-time staff did an excellent job of training almost seventy-five seasonal employees. I want to give a shout out to all our summer seasonal employees on a job well done this year. We hope that you had a good experience and will look to come back in 2024. Thank you for your efforts, we couldn't provide the services we do without you.

Don't forget the leadership of our full-time and regular part-time staff in setting the direction for their teams and designing great experiences for our patrons. They truly make Wauconda a great place to live, work, and play! Thank you for the tremendous effort, countless hours, early mornings, and late nights all summer to make the Park District experience special.

As many of these seasonal workers return to school in the Fall, we will be looking to hire additional marina attendants, recreation class instructors, fitness attendants, and before and after school club counselors. Please contact our office if you are looking for a part-time job this Fall. Benefits include program discounts, Fitness First and Phil's Beach memberships.

Thank You! - Every summer we recruit approximately two hundred volunteers to assist with our special events. I want to send a huge Thank You your way. Wauconda Fest and the Triathlons could not have happened without all your enthusiasm. The amount of support that we receive for these events every summer amazes me. You should all be proud of the work you do and the image that we portray of the Village of Wauconda with these events. We continually hear positive comments regarding our volunteers at all of our events.

A special thank you to the Village of Wauconda, Public Works, Police, Wauconda Township, School District 118, Wauconda Area Library, and Wauconda Fire District for their assistance with these events. Your presence and assistance provide a safe environment and logistical support, providing our participants with the best possible experience. We value the relationship that we have with these other governmental agencies and are grateful that we can work together to put on amazing events.

Comprehensive Plan - We have been working hard over the last year to develop a comprehensive plan to guide us through the next five years of improvements in the District. This has been a long process and our Board will be setting initiatives in the early part of the Fall season, as we continue to improve our park system.

Osage Park - In May we received word from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources that we received an OSLAD (Open Space Land Acquisition and Development) grant for the redevelopment of Osage Park. This will be the biggest park renovation that the District has taken on since the development of Phil's Beach. We hope to begin making plans this Fall and have work begin in the Spring. This project calls for the renovation of the tennis courts to include two pickleball courts, repaving of the basketball courts, creating a multi-use pavement soccer court, outdoor fitness equipment and improved accessibility for all participants.

Welcome - In May 2023, two of our Commissioners moved out of the District and were unable to fulfill their commitment to being a Park District Commissioner. I want to thank both John Bader and Michell Micelli for their time on the Board. You were instrumental in moving the Park District forward with the acquisition of the Wauconda Boat property and the recent OSLAD grant application. Thank you for your time and commitment to the residents of Wauconda Park District.

On July 11, 2023, the Park Board appointed Kathy Bianco and Adam Tallman to fill the vacancies on the Board. Kathy and Adam will serve as commissioners until May 2025 at which time their position will be up for election. I would like to welcome Kathy and Adam to the Board.

I am about to run out of space, so I will end with this. Please take a few moments to look through this program guide and find an activity that is right for you and your family. If you do not see something that interests you, please contact our office, and we can investigate the possibility of offering a new class.

Last, I want to thank you all for your support and continued patronage. We appreciate seeing all your smiling faces at our parks and facilities. Enjoy the Fall season and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Sincerely,
Tim Staton, CPRP
Executive Director
tstaton@waucondaparks.com

